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THE GREATEST OF ALL TRIPS.
To Old Point Comfort and the
Seashore, Aug. 19th.

This popular Excursion in charge of
Mr. W. A. Wilgus, S. P. A., will be run
Tuesday, Aug. 19th, via Illinois Central
and C. & O. Railways, from Paducah on
regular train; connecting with Seashore
Special, leaving Union Depot, foot of
Seventh street at 1:30 p. m. The round
trip rate to Old Point Comfort is only
\$17.00 and tickets are good until Sep-
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This trip surpasses any offered the
traveling public. Grand and beautiful
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adhered to.

THE THRUSH.

The briars and leaves and the underbrush
Are in league with the Thrush.
They are full of subtle and quick suspicion;
And when I am trying to find admission
Into the thicket, they reach to stay me,
And all the vines and the thorns delay me;
And when I am creeping along—along—
Softly, lest I should break the song,
The vines will flutter
With words of fear,
And the leaves will utter,
"Anear—aneer,"
And the Thrush will stop
And suddenly drop
Into the dusk of the underbrush.
Then I will listen, and in the hush
The ear perceives
A step in the leaves;
And I look below
In the shady room,
And his brown's aglow
In the leafy gloom;
And I catch his eye,
So warily shy,
And then—we are almost friends—and then
There are the chattering leaves again,
Foolish, timorous leaves that cry,
"Have a care for the folk that pry!"
—Mary Burt Messer, in the Atlantic.

The Poet and the Graphophone

By J. NOEL JOHNSON.

(Copyrighted by Daily Story Pub. Co.)

ELMER CLIFTON was one of the
handsomest young men in cen-
tral Kentucky.

"He was a great political genius,
too," was the decision of his young
lady admirers, though their decision
was invariably reversed when Elmer
would appeal to the editorial court.

But editors are cold blooded, hard
hearted, incompetents, while girls
when sitting in judgment on the lit-
erary productions of a handsome
man are broad-minded, liberal, en-
thusiastic and, by instinct, critics of
unquestionable authority.

When Elmer's eye rolled in a fine
frenzy, such phrases as "Cupid's
Dart" matched to "tender heart"
would shower from his pen like dew
drops from a stricken rose.

He delighted to read his produc-
tions to a girl enthusiast. His vocal
chords were like guitar strings, and
when a sensitive ear would incline to
his voice, a sigh would ever and anon
tremble from a throbbing bosom and
a square of soft lace go up to absorb
a tear.

With an enthusiastic hand he
would mail his productions to lead-
ing magazines, and with nervous
hands and sickening disgust he would
soon take them from the post office
again.

But like most Kentuckians, he was
game, and one editor who had tasted
the mucilage on a hundred of Elmer's
return envelopes, wrote to him in this
way:

"I admire your pluck and persist-
ency, ill directed though they be.
Such energy and grit are worthy of
a better cause. If nothing will do you
but write, let your Pegasus catch the
epizootic as quick as possible. Send me
some prose sketches like the
'Dance at Daddy Darnell's,' 'My Own
Live Dog,' or 'Last Fight of the
Feud,' and I'll be glad to look them
over, but please, oh, please, no more
poetry!"

Then Elmer rose early in the morn-
ing and gathered together a great
multitude of his poems and cast them
forth into devouring flame.

He had just read in a literary jour-
nal that, in the sale of popular books
during the past year, David Scare'em
had led all the rest.

He, too, would write a book, crowd
it with original characters, and, be-
ing young, would live to enjoy the
fame of it.

And where could he find a better
field than the mountains of north-
eastern Kentucky? From those ob-
scure mountain pockets he would
lead forth characters so attractive
in their novelty as to fascinate the
gaze of all Christendom.

So, bidding many pale-faced girls
pathetic farewells, he set off for
Rowan county.

Miss Mary Ann McElroy, old maid,
of Bowie creek, stood in the doorway
of her father's house looking down
the yellow, crooked highway. All at
once she turned an excited face to-
ward her younger sister, Miss Eva,
who sat in the center of the room
rocking in a rustic chair.

"Everline," she called, in a fierce
half-whisper, "come 'ere to the door
an' see who this danderfied lookin'
feller is comin' up the road! Looks
like he's goin' ter stop here—I tole
you last night when my nose was
eacin' so bad that a stranger was
comin'."

"Yes," returned Eva, laughter in
her eyes and dimples in her cheeks.
"Yes, and when the old rooster
crowed in the doorway I began to
primp for his coming. Ha! ha! ha!"
"Oh, figity!" flung back her sister,
as her thin lips writhed, "you're so
awful smart—allers tryin' ter make
fun of a body. Yes, sir, he's stopped
at the gate," and the old maid
wheeled into the room.

"Hello!" called the stranger.

"Go to the door, Everline!"

"No, you go."

"No, I won't."
"Well, then I'll have to—mannerly
set we are here!"

And the young girl, smiling and
blushing, stepped out on the veranda
and saw the handsomest man she had
ever seen.

"Is this where Capt. James Mc-
Elroy lives?" inquired the stranger.

"Yes, sir," returned the girl, a lit-
tle catch in her voice.

"Is he at home?"

"Er, yes, sir, he's out in the corn-
field. Will you come in?"

And without further words Elmer
Clifton whirled gracefully from his
saddle, threw the bridle over the
gate post and strode up the yard
path between ranks of touch-me-
nots, marigolds and hollyhocks.

Elmer entered the doorway a sec-
ond after the old maid had escaped
into the adjoining room and was re-
ceived by Eva, who directed him to
the rocking chair.

An embarrassed pause followed,
which was soon broken by the en-
trance of the old maid with a bucket
of fresh water and a gourd.

Eva paled and then reddened at the
sight of the gourd and arose, crying:
"Don't drink out of that! Let me
get you a goblet!"

"No, indeed! No goblet for me
when I can get a gourd to drink
from! The Lord made the gourd and
man made the goblet. Ah-e-m! The
gourd gives cold water a nectarine
favor that makes the tongue quiver
with ecstasy, and all the senses re-
joice together."

Though this was the first time
Elmer had ever tasted water from a
gourd, his little eulogy spread a com-
mon ground on which he and those
ladies could sympathetically meet.

"What a brilliant as well as hand-
some gentleman he is!" thought Eva,
who had gone to the high school at
Salersville.

"I like that fellow," thought the
old maid, as she carried the bucket
of water into the cook room. "Ef he
has got on fine duds, he ain't no high-
ferlootin' fool!"

A little later, sounds were heard on
the outside like the alternate lift-
ing and dropping of mauls on wet
sod.

"Dad's comin'," spoke the old maid.

"Yes, papa thinks it's about his
dinner hour," Eva supplemented.

A second later something struck
the edge of the veranda and made
planks quiver from one end of it to
the other. Then the doorway dark-
ened and Elmer looked up to behold
a great, tall, broad man with grim
features, and whiskers hanging down
like the tail of an iron gray horse.

"Dad," began the old maid.

"Papa," quickly spoke Eva, shut-
ting off her sister, "this is Mr. Clif-
ton, from central Kentucky."

Elmer arose, and as the old fellow
drawled "Howdy do, suh?" he placed
his pale palm, with some trepidation,
into a great rough hand that crushed
it like a deadfall.

After a few stock remarks about
weather, crops and the "doins down
to Frankfort," the young man told
the elder that he had been engaged
in teaching, was worn out, had come
up in the mountains to rest up and
wanted to board a few weeks with
him.

"I ain't got no objections ter yer
stayin' all summer, ef yo can put up
with our grub—'twon't cost ye noth-
in'—but, by gum, I can't see how ye
cud be tired and wore out teachin'
school—sottin' in the house an' doin'
nuthin'! Sho! Serpose ye had ter
work? Serpose ye had ter plow er
mule in the new ground with roots ever
few steps, knockin' flecks of hide from
yer shins as big as dollar bills?"

"Why, papa?" cried Eva, laughing
through a scarlet face.

"Never yo' mind 'bout me," returned
the old fellow, affecting anger, "you
skin out in that kitchen an' go ter
mobilizin' the eaterbills—I'm hungry."

"Now here is a character for my
novel," thought Elmer as he lay im-
mersed in a fat feather bed that night.
"Oddest, strangest character I ever
knew, in or out of fiction."

And he began vaguely to group
characters and incidents around this
central figure. But, alas, every time
this character would go out for a sub-
ordinate character, it would come
home leading sweet Eva McElroy.
Every incident was the meeting of
himself and Eva beneath a great
spreading oak and exchanging vows of
everlasting love.

Three months later Eva and Elmer
sat beneath a big oak near the house
in sighing perplexity.

Elmer had asked the old fellow for
his daughter's hand, and had been re-
pulsed with thunderous threats. He
had said: "No bandy-shanked, edera-
cated, no 'count cuss gits a gal of
mine! What could you do at a plow,
clearin' ground, or raisin' terbacker.
Don't try ter steal her nuther; I don't
want to be bothered by bein' arrested
an' payin' fines for shootin' a man in
harvest time!"

"Is your father superstitious?"
asked Elmer, the light of a great dis-
covery in his eyes.

"Very," returned the girl.

"Then I'll fix him!" cried the young
man, rising with enthusiasm. "I've
got a graphophone at home and I will

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ILLINOIS CENTRAL EXCURSION BULLETIN

San Francisco, Cal.—K. of P. July
29 to August 10, round trip, \$50,
good returning until September 30.

Salt Lake City, Utah—Grand Lodge
B. P. O. E. August 7, 8, 9 and 10,
\$36.15 for round trip, limited to Sep-
tember 30.

Atlantic City, N. J., via B. and
O. S. W. Ry., August 7, \$20 for the
round trip, good for 12 days to return.
Stop overs allowed at Washington
on the return trip.

Old Point Comfort, Va., via O.
and O. Ry., August 19, \$17 for the
round trip, good to return until Sep-
tember 9. Tickets good only on trains
leaving Paducah at 11:35 a. m. Aug-
ust 18 and 1:25 a. m. August 19.

Asheville, N. C.—August 17, 18
and 19, one fare for the round trip.
American Florists, good returning
until August 25.

Lexington, Ky.—August 11 to 16,
Horse Show, one fare for the round
trip. Good returning until August
18.

Hopkinsville, Ky.—August 18 and
19, Sunday School association, one
fare for the round trip, good return-
ing until August 22.

Owensboro, Ky.—July 30 and 31,
Confederate reunion, one fare for the
round trip, good returning until Aug-
ust 2.

Chicago, Ill.—August 19, \$5 round
trip. Special train leaves Paducah
9:30 a. m. returning August 27.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., August 14,
\$15.50 round trip, good returning un-
til August 25.

J. T. DONOVAN, Agent.

send for it."

A week later, as the old man lay
tossing in his bed, he heard a sound
that made his bones quake and the
cold sweat break out all over him:

"Hear ye, oh, McElroy, and heed
what I say this night! The voice was
in the room. He arose, hastily lit a
match, but saw nothing. He lay down
again shivering. Then the unearthly
voice sounded again.

"Hear ye, oh, McElroy, and heed
what I say this night. Let thy daugh-
ter, named Evaline, and the young man
who carries in thine house be married
on the morrow. And give them thy
blessing, and your hotel property in
the place called Salersville. Do you
heed?"

"I do, oh Lord!" cried the trembling
old sinner. And he arose early in the
morning and went forth and brought
Parson Goodin' who performed the
ceremony.

Six months later Elmer got back the
manuscript of his book. "Rot," was
the only editorial comment. Elmer
laughed, threw the manuscript in the
fire, embraced his beautiful wife and
went down to count the money which
had been registered in the hotel bar-
room.

A New Creature.
The child is happy with its toys,
They make his Heaven; but by and by
The last is gone, without a sigh.
What does a man with children's joys?

So doth the new replace the old,
Nor leave the life a moment bare:
The tree is but more tall and fair
For turning last year's green to mold.

And may Heaven grant me, from its store,
Thus to grow old, and thus to die;
Losing the earth to find the sky.
Outgrowing myself for evermore.
—Bradford Torrey, in Congregationalist.

Burlington Route

A GREAT DENVER TRAIN

It Leaves St. Louis at 2:15 P. M. to-day.
It arrives Denver at 3:15 P. M. to-morrow.

A train that allows over half a day in one city and the best part
of the next afternoon in another city over 900 miles away, meets the
most exacting demands of business travel.

This is a complete train of chair cars, sleepers and dining cars.
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allows travelers for the Coast five hours in Denver before departure of
evening trains.

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